THE WOMAN WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN

A Sad Story of George Washington's Pretty Young Sweetheart.

A ROMANTIC TRUE STORY

Save for the Stupid Pride of Miss Smith's Hard Hearted Father, the Williamsburg Belle and Beauty Might Have Reigned as Our First | sle Mistress of the White House.

Hard by the bare stone walls of the dest insane asylum in America, in Wil-Hamsburg, Va., flourishes according to epute the only yew tree in these United States, Standing beneath the old yew tree and looking toward the southeast across a rolling meadow watered by flowing springs, one sees almost within halling distance the mossy roof of a rambling old

the massive ox-hewn timbers of the wide, fly, had once established his lares and penaces, there might have been seen at



frequent intervals a gallant young cava-lier who was fain to show the paces of his well-bred steed, and, incidentally, of course, his own graceful equitation upon

A ROMANTIC STORY. the owner of the cottage had a

For the owner of the cottage had a daughter!

Now, this young man who visited the cottage across the meadow on Tazewell avenue was Major George Washincton. And of his visits there and what hereli in consequence, and how the pride of a man and the weakness of a woman channed a mattor's history, it is my purpose to tell as it was told to me in the language, one might almost say, of an eye witness.

It is precisely because it is one of those "important rivialities" which history overfeoks that it is so well worthine telling. In Williamsburg every child is familiar with the tradition, i had it from a descendant of one of the oldest colonial tamilies, a gentleman of the highest reputation. To him his sum, who hist many years ago at a very advanced age and who knew General Washington well in her girlhood, rilated this story as a matter of fact of which she horse displays unusual speed and often inexpectedly whis the face. This agitation continues, and the driver has difficulty in "slowing down" the horse after the race is over; not infrestory as a matter of fact of which she horse will go half way round again before he can be stopped, those episodes which to woman over forgets and my informani recalls how the good laily, his auni, kept the story for well and my history the story for

course with his daughter. The future president had a will of his own and on his personal motion the episode would not have enided thus ingioriously. He would have arranged an elopement and doubtless carried it off successfully, ioo, but the girl lacked the courage and independence to take so radical a step and Washington was compelled to submit to a fate he could not overcome. It was not until he had exhausted every honorable means to possess his sweetheart, that Washington rode away and sought to efface her memory in difficult and dangerous enterprises. It is related that on his departure, the girl fell ill and well nigh died of grief and mortification.

THE WOMAN WHO WAS.

THE WOMAN WHO WAS.

THE WOMAN WHO WAS.

Those were busy days and time fled apace. The major was a coionel, a member of the House of Burgesses and surveyor general of Virginia.

There was too, a sweet and stately woman, who day by day in the fashionsible season, passed many a pleasant hour upon the rustic seat beneath the yew trees with Washington at her side. She was a widow, now, and her children were sleeping by her husband's side in the churchyard. But she was still young with a grace and charm which made, her the first lady of the land by her right not less through the exalted position which fair was proparing for her.

was preparing for her.

Perhaps the very words which gave a mistress to the nation and made George Washington a happy hustand were whitspered beneath the yew, which had been so discreet a witness to a certain other courtship not so very far away. WASHINGTON'S RETURN TO WILL-IAMSBURG.

Time brought its changes to the people in the cottage, too, and they were not happy ones. For the galiants from over seas came and firred and rode away, At last, however, there came another suitor who was in earnest. He was not a lord, nor a son of a lord, but a Virginian. This time the stern parent interposed no objections and they were married. And this was the worst mistake or all; for the man was a roystering, gaming, drinking blade, was the worst mistake of all; for the man was a roystering, gaming, drinking blade, who made dicks and drakes of his wife's money and then abused her because the supply was exhausted. It appears that the only good thing he did was to die before he had quite killed the girl and ruined the family.

supply was exhausted. It appears that the only good thing he did was to die before he had quite killed the girl and ruined the family.

At last there came a day the remembrance of which still awakes a thrill of enthusiastic pride in war-vorn. Williams buty. Cornwalls had surrendered at Yerstown, the American arms were everywhere victorious and the whilom Major washington was nailed of all men as king and Savior of his country. The allied armies returned to Williamburg to pass the winter and were given a reception commensurate with their deeds and the means at hand. The city was en fete and while with patriotic enthusiasm.

On this occasion Washington did not ride a white horse, but a beautiful thoroughbred chestnut worthy of his master. He was surrounded by a staff of French and American officers glittering with gold lace and decorations. Rochambeau and La Fayette rode on his either hand. He rode bare headed through the city, bowing gravely and proudly to the wildly cheering people. As the head of the procession passed down Tazewell avegue on the way to Duke of Gloucester street and the "Palace," a pale slendor woman came to the door of the cottage and stood with her hands pressed close above her boson and her tears blurring the wistful eyes bent so eagerly upon the noble, bareheaded figure sitting so masterly upon the dancing chestnut. Washington saw and knew her lin one keen glance above the heads of the shouting crowds and checking his impatient animal, he bowed till his powdered halr mingled with his horse's mane. The woman attempted a courtesy, but nature could bear no more, and with a gasping sigh she fainted and was borne within, a hopeless, nervous wreck; while the man whom her father had sconfully turned out of doors rode on to his great destiny, his victorious army at his back, the cheering multitude at his feet.

There is little more to tell. The former Miss Smith died soon after Washington's

at his back, the cheering multitude at his feet.

There is little more to tell. The former Miss Smith died soon after Washington's election to the presidency. Her family removed to Missouri. Here, in lairer years, a famous sirginian. Nathaniel Beverly Tucker, visited them and brought back to Williamsburg as his bride, Lucy Ann, daughter of General Thomas Smith, U.S. A., who my informant believes, was a nephew of the woman who did not marry George Washington.

JOHN STUART BONNER. JOHN STUART BONNER.

those episodes which no woman ever forgets and my informant recalls how the good lairly, his annu, kept the story for state occasions, and derived the greatest satisfaction from telling of it.

The owner of the cottage on Tagewell my many control of the cottage on Tagewell my many of some means and much respectability and half of the old yew tree was a man named Smith He was a person of some means and much respectability and half of the long of the control of the palace, where the colonial governors kept semi-royal state in those days. Mr. Smith was blessed with a daughter who was one of the reigning beauties of the capital, and for her the proud father cherished matrimonial ambitions.

LOVELY MISS SMITH.

The society of Williamsburg was constantly graced, if not improved, by the

MISS NANCY'S ABSENCE.

Oh, I wonder wha Miss Nancy gone, Fer de latch is on de do', En de sunflower say: "She gone dis way," En de sun don't shine no mo'.

Oh, I wonder whar Miss gone, Fer de place look mighty still; En de wind he say: "Ef she gone my way, I'll find her, dat I will!"

Oh, I wonder whar Miss Nancy gone, While de shadders creep en creep, En de w'ipperwill Fum crost de hill, Say: "I'm singin' her ter sieep!"

Oh, I wonder whar Miss Nancy gone
Fer de sun gone vis'tin', too;
But de moonlight say:
"Et she cross my way
I'll light her home to you,"
—Atlanta Constitution.

GRAND OPERA REALISM.

Tyler paid \$7 for two opera tickets. Alchough he siept through one duet he feit fully repaid for going, because Mrs. Tyler raved over the opera and wasted her superlatives on it. The fames are rearful sound!

You can hear the people shricking As they leap and strike the ground. Oh, horror overtakes me, 'music was heavenly," the prima donna "superb" and the tenor, "magnificent."

There is rothing so irriates a rear enthusiasm as the presence of caim scorn.

"Don't you like it?" asked Mrs. Tyler, as an sertled back after the

bont you like it? asked Mrs. Ty-ler, as she settled back after the eighth recall of the motherly woman who had been singing the part of a 16-year-old maiden.

."I like the music, my dear, but grand opera drags so. Then the sit-uations are so preposterous they always appeal to my sense of humor. When I see Romeo and Junet die, both singing away as if they enjoyed it, I have to laugh." "The idea!"

"You take it in this last act. Those "You take it in this last act. Those two fellows came out with the soldiers and announced that they were conspiring and didn't want to be heard by the people in the house, and then they shouted in chorus until they have been heard two miles away."

"Oh, you are prejudiced."

"Not at all. I'll tell you, a grand opera's the funniest kind of a show, if you only take the right view of it."

Thus they argued, and even after they arrived home she taunted him and told him he could not arrived the lim and told him he could not arrived the lim.

told him he could not appreciate the dignity of the situation.

It was this nagging which induced Mr. Tyler to write an act of grand opera. He chose for his subject an aiarm of fire in an apartment house. The one act, written solely for the benefit of Mrs. Tyler, is here appended:

ACT L -The apartments of Mr. and Mrs. Tyler. Mr. Tyler is discovered reading a newspaper. Enter Mrs. Ty-ler, who advances to the center of the

Mrs. Tyler—I think I smell smoke. Mr. Tyler—She thinks she smells

Mrs. Tyler—I think I smell smoke. Mr. Tyler—Ah, what is this? She thinks she smells smoke. Mrs. Tyler-

What does it mean? What does it mean? This smell of smoke may indicate That we'll be burned. Oh, awful fate! That we'll be burned. Oh-h-h-h-h, awful fate! Mr. Tyler— Behold the smell grows stronger yet!

The house is burning. I'd regret To perish in the curling flames. Oh, horror! Oh, horror! Oh, horror!

Mr. and Mrs. Tyier (duet)—
Ch. sad is our lot, sad is our lot,
Sad is our lot, sad is our lot,
Sad is our lot, sad is our lot,
To perish in the flames so hot!
To curl and writhe and fry and sizz.
Oh, what a dreadful thing it is
To think of such a thing!
Mrs. Tyler—We must escape!
Mr. Tyler—We have no time to lose.
Mr. Tyler—We hiter sruth! Ah, bitter

Mr. Tyler-Ah, bitter truth! Ah, bitter truth! We have no time to

Mr. and Mrs. Tyler (duet)-Oh, sad is our lot, sad is our lot, Sad is our lot, sad is our lot! To perish in the flames so hot-

Sad is our lot!
Sad is our lot!
Mr. Tyler—Hark! What is that?
Mrs. Tyler—Hark! What is that?
Mr. Tyler—It is the alarm of fire!
Mrs. Tyler—Ah, yes! Ah, yes! It is the dread alarm!

Mr. Tyler-The dread alarm strikes on the ear The dread salarm strikes on the ear.
And chills me with an awful fear.
The house will burn. Oh, can it be
That I must die in misery?
That I must die in misery?
That I must die in misery?
The house will burn. Oh, can it be
That I must die in misery? That I must die in misery? Mrs. Tyler—Come, let us fly! Mr. Tyler—'Tis well! 'Tis well! We'll

fly at once. fEnter all the other residents of the fifth floor of the apartment building.

That in our hearts we feel! Mr. and Mrs. Tyler— Ah-h-h, language cannot express the

fear
That in their hearts they feel!
(Enter the janitor.)
Janitor—Hold, I am here!
Mr. Tyler—Ah, it is the janitor! Mrs. Tyler— Can I believe my senses,

Or am I going mad?

It is the janitoro!

It is, indeed, the janitoro!

Janitor—Such news I have to tell!

Mr. Tyler—Ah, I might have known!

He has such news to tell!

Mrs. Tyler—Speak and break the awful suspense!

Janitor—Such suspense! Mr. Tyler-Yes, speak!

Janitor—
I come to inform you
That you must quickly fly;
The fearful blaze is spreading; To tarry is to die

The floors underneath you Are completely burned away. They cannot save the building, So now escape, I pray!

And I merely pause to say

Before we start.

Mr. Tyler—Yes, yes! A few more arias.

And then away.
Oh, hasten! Oh, hasten! Oh, hasten!

Our terror we would conceal, And language fails to express the alarm That in our hearts we feel! Mrs. Tyler—

Now, ere I retreat. Lest death overtakes me, I'll speak of the fear Which convulses and shakes me. I sicken to think what may befall—Oh, horror, horror, horror!

Mr. Tyler-The woman speaks the truth, The woman speaks the truth,
And there can be no doubt
That we will perish soon
Unless we all clear out.
Oh, hasten! Oh, hasten

awayl Our terror we cannot conceal, And language falls to express the alarm

That in our hearts we feel This was as far as Mr. Tyler could go. He didn't want to make his prin-cipals actually "hasten away," as that would have been a violation of opera

traditions.

His theory is that they remained and were burned,-Chicago Record.

SOME OF OUR SLEEPERS.

Some of our well-known men knit up raveled sleeve of care by curious and apparently unnatural methods of sleep. Edison, for example, can remain awake for a week if his mind is wrapped up in a new discovery. There is a famous doctor in this city who sleeps only forty winks at a time. Dr. Joseph Howe sleep the last twenty years of his life in a Turkish bath. He could sleep nowhere else. W. J. Arkell stays awake from Monday morning till Friday night, then goes to Canajoharie and sleeps for two days. Dr. Depew has lately acquired the habit of taking a sleets and finds it beneficial. Webster could never stay awake later than 9 o'clock. Many a time he was caught standing behind the door, fast asleep. His head grew an eighth of an inch a year, and the increasing weight of brain made long sleep imperative.—New York Press. and apparently unnatural methods of

DRAWING THE LINE.

Many years ago the minister of Forbes, in Aberdeenshire, was Benja-Forbes, in Aberdeenshire, was Benjamin Mercer, a man of great boddily strength and of great eccentricity of habits. One day as he was preaching a man in the congregation fell asleep. Still Mr. Mercer took no notice of him until he began to snore, and then called to the beadle, "Charlie, wauken up Sandy Much, he's sittin' I' the corner o' that square seat snorm." The beadle was quick to act, and Sandy awakened in a hurried and excited manner, whereupon the minister addressed him: "Sandy, I'm nae freeig sae hard upon sleepers I' the kirk as some folk, because the preacher is sometimes as much to blame as the hearer, but"—and he held out his olinched fist threaten with Sandy San hearer, but"—and he held out his clinched fist threateningly—"but, San-dy, I debar snorin"."—London Tele-

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And language fails to express the alarm of THE TRIUMPH OF LOVE

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"Well, I tell you that first day is one I'll never forget. I just bobbled with joy. I wanted to hug oversbody and tell them my old self had died yesterday, and my new self was been I day. Why dish't you tell me when I first work that I would find it this way?"

And another thus:

"If you dumped a cart load of gold at my feet it would not bring such gladness into my life as your method has done."

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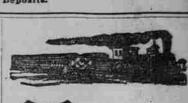
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Oh, let us not remain too long!
Women of the Chorus—
What is this he tells us?

And we must go. Men of the Chorus-Men of the Chorus—
What is this he tells us?
It must be so,
The building is on fire,
And we must go.
Grand Chorus—
Oh, hasten! Oh, hasten! Oh, hasten

Our terror we would conceal,

It must be so. The building is on fire,

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